AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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CARPENTERS' STRIKE INTERESTS UNCLE SAM

Washington, Feb. 21.—In an effort to end a general strike against the New York Building Employers' association, that involved government work, both parties conferred with the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy.

The strike was in support of carpenters who are asking for shorter wages which have been agreed to by the independent contractors, employing 75 per cent of the construction in New York city. At the conference with cabinet officers the employers were represented by President Donlin, of the A. F. of L. building trades department; Thomas Guinzburg, president Bowen, and President Snellings of the international unions of the carpenters, bricklayers, and stationary engineers respectively, and Vice President Hook of the International Association of Machinists.

At a meeting in New York prior to this conference, and which was attended by members of the A. F. of L. executive council, this message was cabled to President Gompers:

"Hostile attitude of New York building contractors has created a contingent-wide strike. We understand several large New York contracting firms are now seeking government contracts. The building trades of America request that this be given no recognition until their destructive designs upon organized labor are withdrawn and that you will use your influence to protest publicity to our friends throughout Europe."

This request has the approval of the presidents of the building trades organizations and members of the executive council of the American federation of labor.

The message was signed by A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison and President Donlin of the A. F. of L. building trades department.

VIGILANT EMPLOYERS WANT FACTS IGNORED

Washington, Feb. 22.—The vigilance of employers in protecting their interests through the control of education is shown by a protest against pamphlets on social questions issued by the United States bureau of education for use in the public schools.

The protest is made by the national industrial conference board, representing 20 associations of manufacturers.

The employers charge the government with conducting a propaganda in favor of free speech, and declare that a thread of prejudice against the employer runs through many of the lessons.

One of the pamphlets state that "in the United States a workman is injured while at work every 15 seconds, and somebody is killed every 15 minutes. We cannot wonder at this when we realize how many dangers there are in modern industry."

The employers accept this statement at its face value and show that on the basis of a 26-hour week "this means a total of 11,350 deaths in industry per year."

While the employers express regret at this condition, they insist that the destruction of life is incidental to the millions of workers employed.

It is clearly the purpose of the bureau of education to impress upon children the horror of killing workers in the industrial service, and the recent declaration by investigators of the department of labor that these accidents are avoidable if the employer is willing to spend the money.

The national industrial conference board, however, wants this situation smoothed over by stressing the fact that children that the percentage of killings is really a minor matter when the total number of wage workers in this country are considered.

"To the normal loss in the normal loss to this country of 11 regiments of workers, in the full strength of peace-time manhood, is of comparatively little importance to America's school children, who will eventually find employment in industry or related activities, and assume their duties as citizens.

LABOR NOT PROPERTY.

This is put-forward by the manufacturers as eminently fair, says the Cotton Factory Times, as it places the labor question of nations being placed in a worse economic position as regards labor than nations in the competitive markets of the world.

"It is the old bogey of labor as a commodity, decked out in new shreds, an ingenious attempt to attack the workers' right to a fair de-sac. Wages and conditions of work are not the sole factors in determining whether either this country could never have obtained the pre-eminence it has in the world today in cotton manufacture. Every ounce of cotton sails to Every ounce of cotton sails to thousands of miles across the sea, and four-fifths of the manufactures returned pass to India carried similar distances to find markets.

Hours of labor here have been much less than in any foreign country until recent years, and America overtook and passed us in this respect. Hours of factory labor have been shortened in times past; foreign countries have not been compelled to do so, and there is no reason how why they should be.

Our present prosperity on the cotton trade has been due very largely to superior organization, improvement in machinery, and increased speed, and last but not least, to the trained skill of the Lancashire operatives. It is safe to say that the operatives themselves have derived the least from the benefits from all these advantages, which have been divided mainly between the mill owners and the consumers.

"It is within the mark to say that each operative on the average turns out twice the production to-day that she did years ago. Some of this increased productivity ought to have been reflected in the question of working hours, yet they have been very little reduced in the half century of continuous progress and development in the technique and volume of the trade. On this matter it is shorter working week the workers will have to watch and guard their interests, if progress is to be made they require at once to be united, and their forces in order and preparing their plans."

UNHEALTHY MINERS ALARM.

New York, Feb. 22.—There is an alarming number of miners in this country physically unfit for this work, according to experts in the mines, said Dr. A. J. Lanza, chief of the United States bureau of industrial hygiene, at a meeting of mining engineers. The speaker said that these physical defects are more numerous than in any other occupation in the country.

Dr. Lanza declared that as long as "dry drilling" is permitted in hard-rock mines, and as long as the ordinate amount of pulmonary disease among miners; that no drilling" apparatus might be as deadly as a machine gun, though somewhat slower, and that the continuous work in the mining industry is a matter of grave concern, unless speedily, he said, should be able to produce a water drill that would make nearly unnecessary the present necessity.

The speaker urged adequate ventilation facilities for miners, and medical and surgical aid, so that illness and injury of a minor character might be promptly treated.

WORKERS FACE DISTRESS.

Burke, Idaho, Feb. 22.—Organization of the Idaho state federation of labor to assist them in securing employment and relief was to fulfill promises made during the labor troubles last summer.

The unionists say they were assured steady employment if they would refrain from striking, and that where the worker could not continue payment the employer would refund the amount paid thereon and take the bond himself. The mines are now shut down and the employers reject their agreement. Many workers find themselves with a partially paid bond and no employment, with the alternate of borrowing money or suffering eviction or losing the bond.

Many unionists say they know of instances where a $10 bond was sold for $5, and where the worker to seek employment elsewhere.

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Gillespie, Ill., Feb. 22.—In its quarterly report the Farmers' union store shows that $2,286.94 was paid members during the last three months based on the amount of purchases each made. This was a dividend at 5 per cent. During the same period the Worden Co-operative society reported a dividend of 6 per cent, the city at Staunton, 6 per cent, and the one at Marrissa, 5 per cent. These towns are all located in Illinois.

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL.

Washington, Feb. 22.—As a result of the back-to-school drive conducted by the children's bureau of the department of labor it has been found that 25,000 Texas children failed to enroll in any school last year.

TRY TO CUT WAGES.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 22.—Organized machinists employed by the Dana Manufacturing company suspended work when they refused to accept a cut wage 5 cents an hour.

WAR VICTORS WILL CONTROL PROPOSED LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Washington, Feb. 22.—The league of nations, proposed by the Paris conference, would rely mainly on an international boycott to enforce arbitration awards or decisions, by the executive council of the league.

The league will be controlled by the five war victors—the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan—whose representatives, together with representatives of four other countries to be selected, will form the executive council. Should any member of the league refuse to abide by arbitration decisions or recommendations by the executive council, this shall be considered as an act of war against all other members of the league and the international boycott will be applied. The boycott shall be extended to countries outside the league which attempt to do business with the offending nation.

Any war or threat of war, whether affecting members of the league or not, is declared to be a matter of concern to the league and it reserves the right to take "any action that it may deem necessary to safeguard the peace of nations."

Members of the league shall not resort to war until after an arbitration award or recommendation by the executive council and even then not for three months or will not be waged against any member of the league that complies with such arbitration award or with the recommendation. The award must be rendered within a reasonable time and the recommendation within six months. The executive council shall formulate plans for the establishment of a permanent court of international justice. Headquarters of the league will be established in a country to be selected and an international secretary placed in charge.

The league will undertake to preserve the territorial integrity and political independence" of affiliates and in case of danger the executive council shall advise upon the means by which the obligation shall be fulfilled."

Any nation may join the league of nations by a two-thirds vote of the countries now represented, providing the applicant is a self-governing country. Control of the league through its executive council, will not be affected by this addition as the executive council is permanently limited to the representatives of nine countries, five of whom are the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

The maintenance of peace, it is declared, will require the reduction of national armaments and the executive council shall formulate plans for effecting such reduction and for the necessities of the nations.

The nations agree that "the manufacture by private enterprise of munitions and implements of war lends itself to grave objections," and the executive council is directed to recommend how these evils can be checked.

Members of the league pledge themselves not to conceal from each other the condition "of those industries in their countries that are capable of being adapted to war-like purposes or the scale of their armaments "and agree that there shall be full and frank interchange of information as to their military and naval programs." A permanent commission shall be appointed to advise the league on the execution of this pledge.

The league's agreement contains this reference to labor:

"The high contracting parties will endeavor to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor for men, women and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend, and for that purpose will establish as part of the organization of the league a permanent bureau of labor."

The members of the league agree not to enter into any treaty that is inconsistent with the provisions of the agreement adopted. No nation shall be admitted to membership in the league unless it is bound by a treaty inconsistent with the league's principles. The league declares that "take immediate steps to procure its release from such obligations."

The nations declare that treaties can not be amended unless it secures the approval of the league which must be unanimous except in matters specifically provided for by the league.

WILL USE BOYCOTT ON INTERNATIONAL SCALE TO PREVENT FUTURE WARS AND LAND GRABBING

Washington, Feb. 22.—The boycott, international in scope, will be used by the proposed league of nations to stop war and check aggressions. Article 12 provides that where a dispute can not be settled by diplomacy, war shall not be resorted to until after the case is referred to arbitration or a recommendation is made by the league's executive council. It is further agreed that war shall not be waged against a member of the league that has complied with the arbitration award or with the recommendation.

Provision for the international boycott is contained in article 16, which reads as follows:

"Should any of the high contracting parties break or disregard its covenants under article 12, it shall thereby, ipso facto, be deemed to have committed an act of war against all the other members of the league, which hereby undertake immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking state and the nationals of any other state, whether a member of the league or not."

FOREIGN COMPETITION WORLD-WIDE BUGABOO

Manchester, England, Feb. 22.—The Cotton Factory Times does not accept the claim of British cotton manufacturers that hours can not be reduced until an international agreement adopts a standard working day.

This is put-forward by the manufacturers as eminently fair, says the Cotton Factory Times, as it places the labor question of nations being placed in a worse economic position as regards labor than nations in the competitive markets of the world.

"It is the old bogey of labor as a commodity, decked out in new shreds, an ingenious attempt to attack the workers' right to a fair de-sac. Wages and conditions of work are not the sole factors in determining whether either this country could never have obtained the pre-eminence it has in the world today in cotton manufacture. Every ounce of cotton sails to thousands of miles across the sea, and four-fifths of the manufactures returned pass to India carried similar distances to find markets.

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"It is within the mark to say that each operative on the average turns out twice the production to-day that she did years ago. Some of this increased productivity ought to have been reflected in the question of working hours, yet they have been very little reduced in the half century of continuous progress and development in the technique and volume of the trade. On this matter it is shorter working week the workers will have to watch and guard their interests, if progress is to be made they require at once to be united, and their forces in order and preparing their plans."

BATTLE DEATHS LEAD.

Washington, Feb. 22.—In past wars disease killed more men than on the battlefield, but the opposite is true in the present war, according to Dr. Welch, director of the United States American army.

The battle death rate for the entire American army in this war was 39 per cent per thousand per year, in the Civil war it was 9 and in the Spanish war 2 per thousand per year.

It is shown that in the Mexican war the battle death rate was 15 per thousand, and the disease death rate 110 per thousand. In the Civil war, battle, 21; disease, 65; Spanish war, battle, 1; disease, 2.

The development of medical science and surgery is responsible for decreased deaths by disease.

ASK R. R. RECEIVER.

New York, Feb. 22.—The waste that will result from a receivership for the railroads, which is charged by opponents of this system, is somewhat offset by economies in handling the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, according to testimony given in the plea for the appointment of a receiver for that property.

It is proposed that during the 10 years prior to government control the capital stock has been increased from $177,000,000 and that over $204,000,000 have been wanted.

$10 ROAD TAX FOR ALL.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 18.—The state senate has passed a bill which levies a $10 road tax on every male citizen of the state, 6 per cent, and the one at Marrissa, 5 per cent. These towns are all located in Illinois.

This same senate amended the compensation bill so that friends of this legislation were compelled to unite with the house and secure postponement for the remainder of the session.

LAUNDRY DRIVERS UNITE.

Cincinnati, Feb. 22.—Laundry drivers have formed a union and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

COOKS ORGANIZE.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 22.—Cooks and waiters in this city are organizing

EMPLOYES MAIN IDEA IS TO OPERATE ROADS

Washington, Feb. 22.—As spokesman for 14 international unions President Garretson of the Order of Railway Conductors testified for nearly two days before the senate committee on interstate commerce on the proposal of organized railroad workers to operate the railroads on a profit-sharing plan.

The details of this plan were prepared by Glenn E. Plumb, of Chicago, attorney for the railroad brotherhoods. The measure embodies the principle of the plan—that the railroads should be operated for the railroad men—and accept the details tentatively. The workers say they will accept a cut in wages if the plan for an improvement over those submitted.

The main points of the plan are:

Appraise the railroads for their physical valuation and then issue bonds representing that value. These properties and issue bonds based on this valuation.

Organize a federal operating corporation, chartered in the United States and operate these properties. One-third of the directors should be elected by the classified employees under the grades of appointed officials; one-third by the classified employees under the grades of appointed officials; one-third by the president of the United States. A supplementary board of labor should be created with authority to adjust wage and working conditions disputes.

The power to set passenger and freight rates shall remain as at present, in the hands of the interstate commerce commission.

The net operating shall be paid a guaranteed dividend. Net profits shall be divided equally between the government's corporation and the operators (workers and managers) of the railroads. The government's 50 per cent of the profits shall be put into a fund to be used for the same purpose of taking up the bonds, the government thereby eventually owning the railroads. The operators' 50 per cent of the profits will be divided pro rata among the employes of the railroads, in proportion to the wage or salary they are receiving at that time.

The essential difference between this profit-sharing plan and profit-sharing as generally understood is that in the first case the workers are managers as well as operators, while in the latter case the workers' voice in the conduct of a business is negligible.

FEARS FOOD MONOPOLY.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Within 10 years, and probably within five, the five leading meat packers will control the entire meat supply of this country and charge whatever price they see fit, declared Chairman Francis J. Heney, testifying before the house interstate commerce committee.

Mr. Heney said the packers had extended their activities into many fields that they have become a menace to the country. They now own the stockyards, slaughtering and butter markets, he said, and are rapidly becoming monopolist of a large number of other food products. Through their large capital and their extensive facilities, he witness declared, they are able to "smother competition."

LABOR LAW VIOLATED.

Boston, Feb. 22.—Edwin Mulready, state commissioner of labor and industries, declared yesterday that the state are forcing children into work that is forbidden by law. He says that their activities into many fields in Massachusetts industries and that many of them are working on machines that are a menace to their safety. He explained that the children are employed in violation of law under the "certificate law," but after they work in the factories they are employed in other work than that called for in their certificates.

DIVIDENDS RENEWED.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 22.—For the first time since 1914 the state's teachers' state insurance fund, administered by the state industrial commission, declared a dividend of 10 per cent. The increase in this number in the premiums paid by employers, resulting from war conditions made it advisable to administer the payments for the period of the war.

FISH STRIKE THREATENED.

Boston, Feb. 22.—The Fish Fishermen's unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. threaten to strike unless their demands for improved conditions are agreed to.

5 AND 10 CENT STORES PAY.

New York, Feb. 22. — Five and 10-cent stores throughout this country are paying dividends of 100 per cent for the F. W. Woolworth company,

"RECOGNIZE UNIONS," IS ADVICE OF EDITOR

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—In a leading editorial on "The World Revolution," the Philadelphia North American advises employers to give "absolute recognition to collective bargaining," and, "especially," says this paper, "should there be recognition of the American Federation of Labor."

The editor does not try to fool himself or his readers on present-day tendencies, and he frankly declares that "while there have been many other periods of world unrest in the history of the world who political turmoil and social upheaval so far as we.

The first fact to be noted is that the phenomenon is world-wide. The unrest is not confined to countries disordered by war, but is found in the colossal costs of victory; it reaches itself in countries almost untouched by the conflict, except as it increases their prosperity.

"An equally striking characteristic is the labor movement, while often taking revolutionary demands, gets higher wages and shorter hours really goes deeper than these issues. It is political, it is social. It is international. It aims to alter fundamental relationships of men. It aims revolutionize by improvement the conditions of life and the opportunities for the development of human beings. One kind of manifestation may be a strike in Belfast and the next a labor congress called to be a parliamentary opposition of labor representatives in Switzerland, a meeting of peace plenipotentiaries at Paris to frame a charter of co-operative betterment for the international labor. All are features of the same world movement.

"New conceptions of right and justice, a new moral standard, have grown out of this war. Labor has assumed a new dignity, a dignity born of the splendid sacrifices it made during the last four years. Never again will organized labor submit to the arrogant, dumbly watch while laws are made or treaties are signed which barter away their sovereign rights.

"That," continues the North American, "is a statement of fact. What, then, is the program? To elucidate its details would require a volume. But its essence may be found in the simplest terms, means a world-wide demand for a more democratic conduct of industry, more equitable distribution of the rewards of labor, wider opportunities for the leading of economic well-being and the enjoyment of cultural advantages.

"Deplorable and destructive are some of the radical reactions, but the fundamental thing is progress in the democracy, of progress, of evolution toward a higher and better social organization of human society."

POET AND PROPHET.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 21.—M. G. Lafferty, secretary-treasurer of Textile Workers, made the poetic prophecy to the Chattanooga Labor council to the effect that workers are idle. Factory whistles will blow and bells and gloom from our fair Dixie land, the eight-hour day is coming for the South. Over the hills and coogas and all other southern cities. The eight-hour day for textile workers is a challenge and appeal to the gallantry and chivalry of our southern manhood. Let us answer that our sires will not be appealed to in vain."

IMPORTING MINE LABOR.

Shamokin, Pa., Feb. 22.—At a meeting of organized mine workers, representing district No. 9, protest were made against the importation that are importing labor into this region at a time when hundreds of experienced miners are idle. It was stated that many of the old employes have been refused work for room for the new arrivals.

A resolution favoring federal control of the mines and appealing to the government to take over those properties at once was adopted.

PROFIT SHARING SCORED.

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 21.—At a meeting of the Toledo Typographical union employes the company's announced profit sharing system was denounced. Resolutions were passed to want it in our weekly pay envelope" was applauded and the piece-work system was ripped to tatters. The meeting was attended by company officials. Whose presence did not interfere with the workers' plain talk.

ELECTRICIANS STRIKE.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 21.—Organized electricians have suspended work in order to make a demand for a wage

FOUNDRY MEN BLIND TO SOCIAL CHANGES

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 22.—The National Founders' association is blind to social changes and through its president, William H. Barr of this city, indulges in the same thunderous anti-union talk so common 15 years ago and made popular in certain quarters by the late Senator Hanna, of Ohio.

Speaking before the annual convention President Barr repeats the old stuff of 15 years ago to show that some men never learn, the following portion of Barr's parrot talk is referenced:

"The American Federation of Labor has submitted to the senate committee on education and labor a program which it claims is necessary to the reconstruction period. This Substitute for the United States the world from chaos. It is a socialistic program more intelligently. The first item in this union panacea, makes it a criminal offense for an employer to interfere with or hamper the right of workers to organize into trade unions. In other words, the A. F. of L. demands that we do away with espionage. Furthermore, neither the employer nor the government shall interfere in the legitimate activities of labor unions.' Past by the members of the association of property, brutal assaults upon non-union men, the workers have all the while considered 'legitimate activities' where an employer refuses to accede to their demands, even though illegal. The courts, however, have held differently. The A. F. of L. wants the approval of the law on these 'legitimate activities.'"

WANT FORCED ARBITRATION.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 22.—The old plan of fining strikers if they refuse to return to their employment has been revived in a measure that such a bill has been introduced in the state legislature providing for "compulsory" arbitration.

The measure introduced provides the bill which is supported, as a matter of course, by many large employers, is a splendid piece of anti-union legislation. The service commission shall take charge of the case, and if either party "or upon the petition of 10 or more citizens-affected by such a strike" the commission shall call a hold public hearings and announces its decision as to the facts developed in some newspaper.

Experience in Kansas proves his ignorance of history in this portion of section eight:

"Any person, whether employer or employe, or other person indirectly interested in the strike or lockout may be such decision, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor in any court having jurisdiction and fined not exceeding $500."

WINNING SHORTER WEEK.

New York, Feb. 22.—Dress and waist workers affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have narrowly fought for a 44-hour week down to the 48-hour week, by the employers' association. About 30,000 workers in independent shops have returned to work and those with union agreements, who number approximately 25,000, have been granted the 48-hour week.

International union charges that the association's strike guards instigated disorders. In a number of the struck shops in company with a representative for the district attorney's office, and found that the guards do not permit pickets to talk with the workers, but even in form thgn that a strike is on.

SIGN TWO-PLATOON BILL.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22.—The governor has signed the two-platoon bill, recently passed by the state legislature, at the request of the state federation of labor.

The trade union movement supported the measure.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 22.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature which provides for three months in five deductions for days of the first, second and third class.

DON'T PAY UNION SCALE.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 22.—Bakers employed by the city home and the city hospital will receive wage increases, but will be required to accept the union rates. Mayor Gillen is quoted that this "would be too much of a joke."

PASS SANITARY BILL.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 22.—The house has passed the sanitary code bill, which is a measure to provide the means to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

AGITATE FOR MEAT INSPECTION.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 22.—The principle of compulsory insurance for wage earners is an indictment of American industry, says Thos. J. Donnelly and O. H. Chapin in a minority report against the recommendation of a state commission to establish compulsory insurance in Ohio. The dissenters are secretary-treasurer and second vice president respectively, of the Ohio federation of labor.

The commission of which they are members, was created by the legislature to investigate health and old age insurance, and is in general agreement upon practically every question except compulsory insurance. On this the commission split, with Robert E. Lee, an employer, voting with the trade unionists.

In their report Donnelly and Chapin say:

"We do not believe the employes should be detailed in the indictment of the wards of the state because they have been the victims of social injustice, and because of the failure of the state to perform its full duty to them and not upon their shoulders that the responsibility should be placed. We, therefore, are unwilling to establish as part of the organization of the proposed health insurance plan, partial relief.

"Industrial feudalism and supervisory government are the permanent threat to American freedom, equality and the development of democracy in our industrial life."

The unionists say that the half million workers that would be used to administer compulsory insurance

Compulsory Insurance an Indictment Of American Industrial Conditions

could be used "in promoting the public health through proper preventive measures and looking to the curtailment of tuberculosis, typhoid, smallpox and venereal diseases.

"An adequate public health department could educate the public, improve factory and housing conditions, abolish slums, improve rural health and promote the organization of health insurance units, and the state could encourage same by the offer of money to expend upon a plan approved by the state. This would leave the initiative with the people and allow them to determine the form and scope of the insurance and the extent to which they desired to be supervised."

In reply to the claim that employes can not carry the cost and that it is necessary to compel employers to assist with the state to support the unionists say:

"If this is true it surely finds labor in a deplorable condition, especially when it is taken into consideration that for a period of 50 months out of 60 by all employes, with employers not contributing a cent, and supervision and administration excluded, would bring about the ideal health condition contemplated by the advocates of compulsory health insurance.

"If this is true the payment of adequate industry, if true, which it should not be, compelled to escape the punishment of 24 cents per week per employe, and thereby licensed to commit 1,000 murders.

"Finally, interference with the rights of the individual and compulsion should be the last resort of free government, and not the first."

WAR WAGES SWALLOWED.

Washington, Feb. 22.—In urging the necessity for putting "the people to work," the information and statistics bureau of the department of labor says that despite high wages the percentage of saving was smaller by more than in the pre-war period.

"The belief is not well founded," it is stated, "that the workers were so well provided for during the war that they could afford to remain idle a long time while peace pursuits were being inaugurated. They are not well prepared for undergoing the hardships caused by unemployment. Many of them are poorly equipped to face adversity.

"A sudden plunge from prosperity to want will not be met with as good grace as if they had been in the barren fields. They are not disposed to return to former habits because some slight circumstances prevent their living as was their wont. The black curtain cannot be lowered over the land of plenty in which they have been used to kept out. They will simply tear down the curtain and look out. That's the peculiar habit of people who know they want something and know where it can be found."

REACTION IN ARKANSAS.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 22.—Organized labor is calling attention to the anti-union activities of a bill introduced in the state senate which provides for the creation of a board of three of 17 members, that would have the combined powers of the executive, legislative and judiciary.

The committee is to provide effective means for the state to preserve order within the state, to provide for the development of agriculture and the natural products and to aid in the development of the material resources of the state.

These praise-worthy objects however, cannot be attained through the bill which empower the committee to interfere in every labor strike. The committee is to be the judge of what constitutes "riots, insurrections or violence" in any labor strike, and is given a power unlimited by existing laws and guarantees, as the act repeals all these that are inconsistent with the purposes of the measure. The committee is given that a strike of miners might be construed as interfering with the development of the natural resources of the state. The committee has full power to act under all rights and is responsible to no one but the governor, who appoints them.

CO-OP. BUYING URGED.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 22.—In a report issued by the Central States Co-operative bureau it is stated that interest is increasing in the wholesale branch of the co-operative movement and that local co-operative societies are buying stock to finance the federation. A conference of delegates has been "urged upon" the committee on officers' report at the 1919 convention of the Illinois state federation of labor:

"When we consider that the entire wheat crop of North Dakota in 1917 was taxed $5,000,000 in the hands of the speculator, a commodity from the producer to the consumer, we can realize the tremendous profits the time is at hand when the employes must combine their purchasing power and demand in order that the commodities so necessary to our very existence may be delivered to them at a reasonable price, and to any other cause than the welfare and happiness of the workers."

DOUBTS JOHN D'S ALTRUISM.

New York, Feb. 22.—The altruism of John D. Rockefeller, jr., is doubted by Samuel Gompers, president of the president of the Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen and Oilers.

Mr. Rockefeller is given much publicity because of his talk about the "republic of labor" and in the newspaper President Healy says Mr. Rockefeller has "wiped out" the Stationary Firemen's union in Baronne, N. J.; Point Breeze, Pa.; Bayonne, N. J.; Whiting, Ind., Port Richmond, Ind., and other places.

CAN LEVY CO-OP. TAX.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 22.—President Farmers of the Illinois district United Mine Workers, has ruled that local unions have a right to levy for support of co-operative movements providing the laws governing the levy and of assessments are complied with.

It is held that this levy is legal in that the international and district organizations in convention have indorsed the co-operative movement.

URGE FULL CREWS.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 22.—Railroad workers have asked the state legislature to make it unlawful for any railroad to operate a freight train of 30 cars or more without a crew of at least six men, including an engineer, fireman, conductor, and three brakemen, and a train of less than 30 cars with not less than four men.

WORKERS' R. R. PLAN ATTRACTS ATTENTION

New York, Feb. 22.—The railroad workers' proposal to operate this country's railroads has attracted much attention in this city.

The New York World treats the proposal in an editorial, "The Soviets Arrive."

"Neither Mr. Lenine nor Mr. Trotzsky," says the paper, "ever devised a more ingenious method of getting rid of private property than that which the railroad brotherhoods formally presented to the senate committee.

The New York Times, which has never consulted the interests of labor unions—unless they "are run right"—makes no attempt to ridicule the railroad workers' plan. It says instead:

"There is nothing to laugh at in the proposal of two million employes—really the proposal of half a dozen labor leaders—that the government shall guarantee a certain return to the railroads for the use of their property, and that the employes shall run the roads. Nearly half a dozen labor leaders," it devotes a full column editorial to, "are in a most serious vein, to show that the plan is impracticable. The editor abandons his usual flippant, jeering manner when discussing a trade union policy. He is evidently impressed by the solidity of 14 international labor organizations on this question, and assures his readers that he is thinking seriously and sympathetically, but with resolute dissent" against the plan.

TRUST PAYS $800 A YEAR.

New York, Feb. 22.—The princely salary of $800 a year which United States steel corporation is not apparent in a few lines of the report of its stock holders' meeting.

In 1917 $253 employes whose annual salaries were $800 or less received, and last year 1,939 employes in this class bought stock. These workers average $800 a year.

On December 31, 1917, more than $1,000 was owing to each employe, according to about three and one-half shares per person. This includes employes of all classes.

The price of the stock is the market price or nearly a little less. Monthly payments are made as follows: Minimum, $1 per share; maximum $5 per share, or fractions.

To encourage employes to buy this stock they are given dividends of $ a year for five years on each share of stock purchased. These premiums are not paid where the subscription is canceled, the stock is sold or the employe leaves the employ of the corporations, and provides that the payments are not made, and that the stock in the hands of private parties, but that refrigerator cars, belt railroads, coal mining lands and other equipment shall be controlled by the government.

It is believed that this policy will place dependent workers on an equal footing with the trust magnates.

MANY HATTERS IDLE.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 22.—When A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison made a public at Washington the number of out-of-works in Newark, which is given as 2,000, the local trade unionists, Mayor Gillen rushed into print and announced that there was a job for every man in this city. Hatters' union No. 14 disagrees with the mayor and declares that several hundred of its members are unemployed.

RAISE WAGES $3-A WEEK.

San Francisco, Feb. 22.—The Warehouse and Cereal Workers' union has secured a raise of $3 a week. The workers have been waiting for over three months for this increase, and when they finally threatened to strike the employers advanced rates to $4.50 a day.

UNNATURALIZED ALIENS.

Washington, Feb. 22.—There are nearly 10,500,000 unnaturalized aliens in this country, according to Raymond F. Carlot, deputy commissioner of naturalization, who says the aliens total 12,500,000 and that nearly 1,500,000 have declared their intentions.